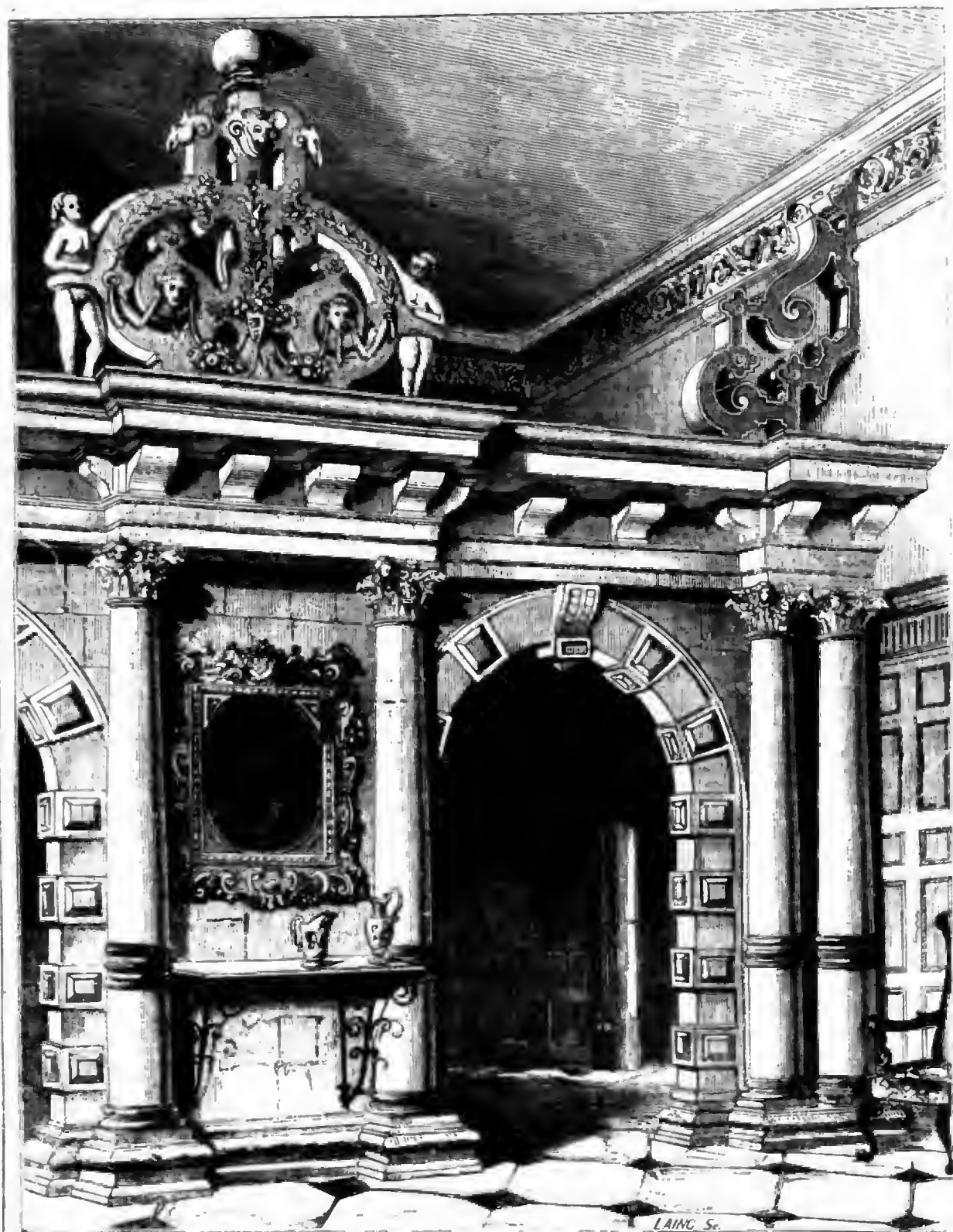


VIEW IN GREAT HALL, MONTACUTE.



the cold draughts of air, caused by the long passages, the great extent of the rooms, and the lofty windows, must have been felt even in the time of Elizabeth; these screens, which project considerably into the rooms, could only have been introduced for warmth and comfort,—as they are curiously painted and adorned with pinacles and scroll-work. Their

effect is very quaint and pleasing: representations of them, with their colours, have been published.

The building was commenced in 1580, and finished in 1601, for Sir Edward Phelps, Knight, the Queen's Serjeant: he was the third son of Sir Thomas Phelps, the descendant of a very ancient family who had mi-

grated into this county from Wales, and who for many years resided at Barrington, near Montacute.*

Montacute House has been possessed and inhabited by Sir Edward's posterity ever since. A few inscriptions on the building illustrative of ancient hospitality are deserving of notice.

* See view of, in a previous volume of *THE BUILDER*.